



# The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026

Issue 9

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## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week is the Children's Mental Health week. The theme this year "This is My Place." Mrs Wolton-Carr and Mrs Hassan led an assembly at the start of the week to explore the importance of everyone feeling that they have a place where they truly belong. A strong sense of belonging is essential for wellbeing, and as a community school we want every child at WPS to feel proud to say that this is their school and their community.

One of the ways children experience this sense of belonging is through our school productions. This half term, the Years 1 and 2 classes had the opportunity to create and perform their show, first to their peers at the dress rehearsal, and then to families across three wonderful performances. I hope that everyone who attended could see how confidently the children took to the stage and how proudly they shared that message of "this is my place."

All year groups have the chance to take part in a production each year. Reception performed their Nativity in the autumn term, Years 3 and 4 will present their show before the Easter break, and Years 5 and 6 will take to the stage in the summer term.

Speaking of our community, I am also delighted to share an update on our exciting building project. At the end of last week, we held a pre-planning meeting with Cambridge County Council and Borrás Construction to prepare for the start of work on the new WPS Wraparound Care Hub. Construction is due to begin either during half-term or shortly afterwards, so when you return you will start to see things moving.

Happily, at least in the early stages, the building works will not affect drop-off or pick-up arrangements for any classrooms or for HoneyPot. However, this may change as the project progresses. The build is expected to take around 36 weeks, and I will share further updates with you after half-term.

But for now, I wish you all a great half-term, hopefully with some sunshine as well!

Best wishes,

Miss Paalanen



## Key Dates & School Notices

### School Calendar:

Fri 13th Feb: Last day of Spring Term 1

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Mon 16th - Fri 20th Feb: Half Term Break - School & Pre-school closed

Mon 23rd Feb: Start of Spring Term 2 - School & Pre-school open to all pupils

Fri 27th Feb - WSA Costume sale [3-3.30pm]

Tue 3rd - Thu 5th Mar: Year 5 & 6 Roots to Food Workshop

Mon 9th Mar: Y1/2 Flag Fen trip

Wed 11th Mar: Book Fayre in the Library [3.15-4.15pm]

Thu 12th Mar: Book Fayre in the Library [3.15-4.15pm]

Fri 13th Mar: Newsletter Issue 10

Mon 16th Mar: Book Fayre in the Library [3.15-4.15pm]

Tue 17th Mar: Book Fayre in the Library [3.15-4.15pm]

Fri 27th Mar: Last day of Spring Term 2

End of Term Reports to Parents

Please use this link for dates of 2025/26 academic year - <https://www.willingham.cambs.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=164>

### School Notices:

Emails to teachers and the school office

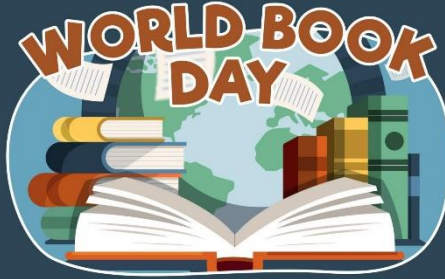
We would like to remind all parents that any urgent same day messages should be emailed to through to the school office, as teachers are not in a position to check their emails during lessons. The office email is monitored throughout the day, so all messages can be passed on by the office team.

Additionally, if there is a concern you need to discuss with the class teacher or our office team, please remember that we always expect kind and polite communication to all members of staff, remembering our school values of kindness and integrity.

### Lunch Meals:

Just a gentle reminder that, after half term, we will be returning on Week 2 of the school's rolling menu. The menu is also available on the school website via this link - [Willingham Aut-Spr Menu](#).

The Lunchtime Company will be offering a World Book Day themed lunch on Thursday 5th March, replacing the usual main and vegetarian menu choices for that day. Please note that Pasta will still be available as a third option. If your child would like to join in, please log in to Pupil Asset to pre-book their choice.



**WORLD BOOK DAY**

**THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**

Hagrid's Chicken in a Bun served with Potatoes Wands & Magic Beans  
Matilda's Magic Macaroni Cheese served with Miss Honeys Garden Veggies

Followed by dessert  
Charlie & the Chocolate Cake  
Or Fresh Fruit pot

**LUNCHTIME CO**

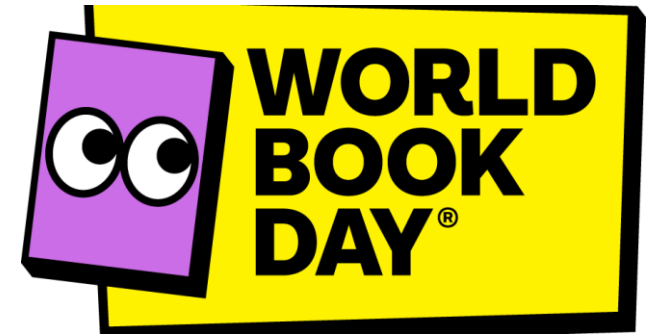
### World Book Day:

We are pleased to share that we will be celebrating World Book Day the theme is Reading for Pleasure on Thursday 5th March. We would like to encourage pupils to dress up as their favourite storybook character on the day; however, please be assured that this is entirely optional, and pupils are very welcome to come to school in their usual uniform.

World Book Day 2026 - Dressing up Resources pack

The WSA will be holding a Fancy Dress Costume Sale on Friday 27th February at school pick-up time.

Donations of complete fancy dress outfits in good, clean condition are very welcome.

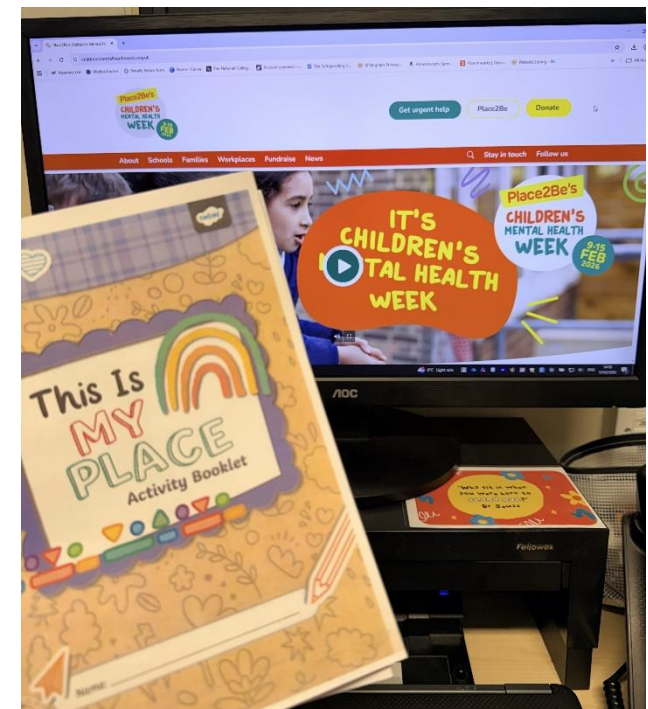


### School Trends:

Our branded uniform supplier has a half term promotion for our parents of 20% off from 13-23 February. Code HALFTERM20.

## Childrens' Mental Health Week

All children from Years 1-6 were given activity booklets, linked to this week's Children's Mental Health Week theme - This Is My Place. Teachers were asked to find some time during this week to for the children to start completing the activities, focusing on the children's sense of belonging in their homes, school and community. The children could then take them home and finish them if they would like to.



## 'The Stone Age' Performance

Our amazing Year 1/2 children took us on a time-travelling adventure back to the Stone Age, wowing the audience with their fantastic knowledge, catchy songs and brilliant artwork! From mammoth hunters to archaeologists, they brought prehistoric life to the

stage and made us all incredibly proud. The cheesy jokes were pre-hysterical - and just to confirm, there were absolutely no dinosaurs in this play.....or the Stone Age for that matter!

Well done Y1/2! Your performance rocked!

We would like to thank all parents and carers for your support of our new online ticket booking system, and we are pleased that so many families have found it convenient and easy to use. It allows fair and efficient access to tickets and is particularly helpful for those who may not always be able to contact or visit the school office during the day.

We appreciate your continued support, as we work to make our processes more accessible and convenient for everyone.



West Stow with Years 5 & 6

Earlier in the month, Years 5 and 6 had a great day out visiting the Anglo-Saxon village at West Stow. Pupils explored the village and enjoyed seeing first-hand how Anglo-Saxons might have eaten, slept, worked and socialised. They had fun hunting for runes and meeting the 'Iron Age' pigs! In the museum, children had the opportunity to dress up as Anglo-Saxons, play 9-Mens Morris and handle artifacts from the time. Despite it being a very cold and damp day, the trip really brought our learning in the classroom to life. We would like to thank the WSA for their support in helping to fund this trip.



## Reporting Your Child's Absence

If your child has a medical appointment or assessment during the school day, is unwell and needs to rest at home, or you need to take them out of school for one or more days (for example, for a special occasion), please contact the school office to let us know about the planned absence.

When informing us of appointments/assessments, please include:

- The date of appointment and the time your child will be collected
- Lunch arrangements (if applicable)

- The name of the adult who will be collecting your child

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please contact the school office each day to provide an update on their condition. This helps us keep an accurate daily record of their absence.

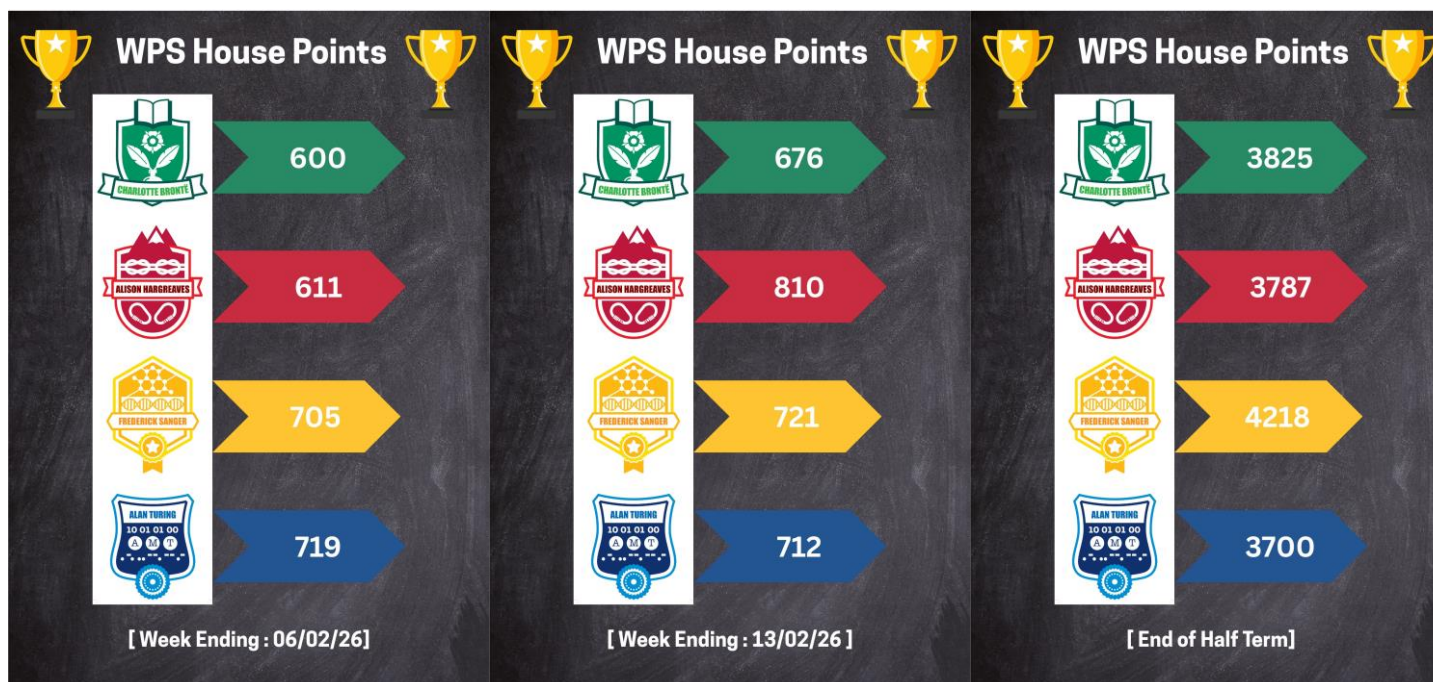
You can contact the school office by:

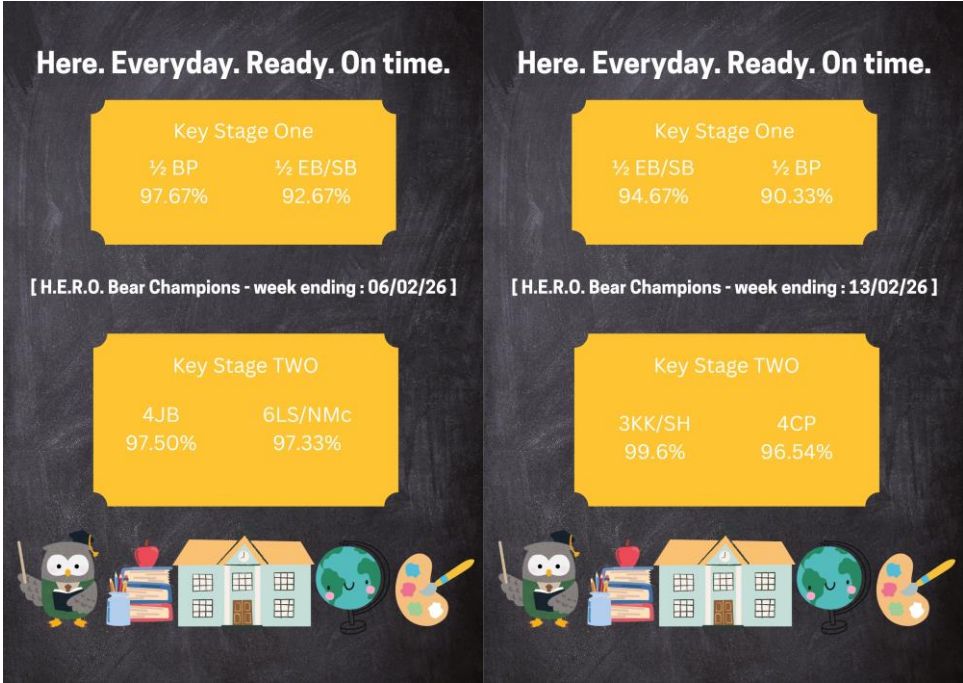
- Phone
- Email
- Logging a comment on Pupil Asset

If you are planning to be away for one or more days, please complete a Requesting Leave of Absence form and return at least 5 school days beforehand (by hand or email) to Georgia Warburton in the school office. This form will then be processed with the Headteacher.

Thank you for helping us keep our attendance records accurate.

## WPS House Points & H.E.R.O Bears





### Parents Guides with Online Safety



### Digital Device Well-being

Many young people now spend between 3–5 hours a day online, which can naturally raise concerns for parents and carers about screen time and its impact on children’s mental health. This guide shares simple, healthy habits and practical strategies to help children feel balanced, confident, and supported both online and offline.

## Mental Health Misinformation

Platforms such as TikTok and other social media sites are increasingly being used by young people to access advice about mental health. While some content can be helpful, much of it is unverified and not produced by qualified professionals. This can sometimes lead to confusion, increased anxiety, or even incorrect self-diagnosis.

## Contact Us

Willingham Primary School - Headteacher Mona Paalanen  
office@willingham.cambs.sch.uk | 01954 283030

Honeypot Pre-school - Manager Kate Van Dort  
honeypot@willingham.cambs.sch.uk | 01954 201567

Help is available if you are experiencing domestic abuse. Call the national domestic abuse helpline on 0808 2000 247. Or contact our Domestic Abuse Lead, Michelle Lenk in confidence via email [mlenk@willingham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:mlenk@willingham.cambs.sch.uk) who will be able to offer support and advice.

